



ISSUE 3 — March 2022



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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

2022 CTF Legislative Priorities

March 9, 2022



In the just-released video above, members of the Board and CTF Staff expand on the fundamental needs CTF seeks to address in Missouri and the approach that our team takes to set its policy and funding priorities. In December, 2021, The [Board of Directors](#) adopted the following Legislative Priorities for 2022:

1. CSA Prevention Funding

Increase understanding and support for **child sexual abuse prevention funding**.

2. Home Visiting Funding

Obtain and design **funding mechanism** for using Medicaid or other long term federal source **to support home visiting**.

3. Home Visiting Service Expansion

Create a system, and obtain necessary funding, to **provide home visiting services to pregnant foster care teens**.

4. Pay For Outcomes Model Application

Create statewide [Pay for Outcomes](#) demonstration project.

5. Home Visiting System Unification

Work with partners to design a **unified home visiting system and strategy**.

All those systems that we have that don't support families – those are things that an individual can't fix. Those are things that a community has to come together to fix.

Amy Beechner-McCarthy
CTF Board Member,
Executive Director of
Russell House

CTF would benefit from additional stakeholder advocacy and involvement in ANY of these key areas. If you or your organization would like to participate in advocacy efforts, or if you are in need of template letters of support to share with your teams, boards, donors, and volunteers, please fill out our 2-minute Advocacy Action Form below!

I would like tools or resources to advocate for...

☐ CSA Prevention Funding

☐ Home Visiting Funding

☐ Home Visiting Service Expansion

☐ Pay for Outcomes Model Application

☐ Home Visiting System Unification

I would be interested in...

☐ Participating in Advocacy Days at the Capitol in Jefferson City

☐ Receiving training in Policy Advocacy, Lobbying, or Communicating with Legislators

☐ Signing letters or legislative petitions endorsed or initiated by CTF

☐ Being notified about urgent policy efforts or bills that may impact my work

Please let us know any specific ways we can support your advocacy and help you be involved!

7 + 3 =

Send Your Message



HERO HIGHLIGHTS

Rich Hennicke

Retired Director, Grants & Social Services
Nurses for Newborns, St. Louis

Listen to Interview #1

by Rich Hennicke & Emily van Schenkhoef | CTF First Hand Insights
"Hero Highlights"

24:50



[Download a PDF Transcript of this Interview](#)

HERO HIGHLIGHTS:


Interview #1: Rich Hennicke

Last year, in the first issue of First-Hand Insights, **we asked you to nominate people you would consider “Heroes” in the field of child abuse and neglect prevention.**

This interview is the first in our series to be released, featuring one of the individuals **YOU** nominated! We know anyone connected to the field will be encouraged by the conversation between CTF Executive Director, Emily van Schenkhoef, and retired Nurses for Newborns Director of Grants & Social Services, **Rich Hennicke.**

Rich Hennicke and his wife, Mary Pat, who also retired recently from a career in teaching, are enjoying their retirement by spending time with their daughter Mary Virginia (also a social worker who lives in St. Louis); visiting their son Michael and his family in Milwaukee (when Covid precautions permit); and attending theater, music, church, and family events. Rich is deeply grateful for the opportunity to continue to be inspired by MSW students in the classes he teaches as an Adjunct Professor in the School of Social Work at *Saint Louis University*, as well as for the opportunity to serve on the boards of organizations that promote positive youth development and social justice.

Statements made in this interview are to be considered the ideas and opinions of the individual interviewee and should not be taken as an official view or statement from his or her affiliated organization(s), past or present. No compensation, express or implied, was provided to CTF, the interviewee or his or her affiliated organization(s) for participating in this interview. This interview was recorded and transcribed by CTF and has been edited for length only and approved by both the interviewer and interviewee for fidelity prior to publication



The explosion of neuroscience... the fact that the science is there, and then that people start accepting the science and start using it... those are powerful things.

Rich Hennicke
Former Director of Grants and Social Services, Nurses for Newborns, St. Louis

Why do you think you were called to do this work? How did you end up working for Nurses for Newborns for 18 years?

A strange set of circumstances... I had just left the wonderful work of the Leadership with the St. Vincent de Paul Society... And honestly, I was praying at the time I got a phone call from Sharon Rohrbach... “We have a position that we’re looking for and we think you might be a candidate.” So that’s kind of how that came into being... When I got to meet Sharon – Emily, the thing that was striking about her – Sharon’s soul shines through all the time, and the center of her passion are the babies that she has helped to protect and give life in so many ways. So, it was inspiring to be with her... And this was just unbelievable work, because my work before this, before I worked with St. Vincent de Paul, was with Catholic Family Services. And our work was oftentimes at a later stage in the child’s life or in the family’s life. And the issues that were there would have been so much easier to deal with and may have never occurred if there

When you look back on your career, what are some things you wish you would have known earlier or that you learned as you got older?

With Nurses for Newborns, our work was not tied to any sectarian perspective. It truly was the babies... But its inspiration was something deeper in a sense of a faith commitment. And so to recognize that there’s something bigger going on here, that, don’t get too lost in yourself... There’s a whole lot of other folks with you, and sometimes there’s just... courses that you don’t even know are about this. And so, trust it, and go ahead... go ahead and do. Too long, I felt like I had to carry it on my shoulders. And, of course, that’s a very incorrect perspective... And I have to keep learning it, because I get lost in my own little world and ways of looking at things, and so I’m grateful for those who open the windows and say, “hey, there’s something more here.”

What are some of the challenges you faced doing child abuse and neglect prevention work?

My biggest primary effort, of course, was I was trying to encourage the funding of services... But I also found it difficult when I would find legislative and governmental entities, as well as others in the larger field, who just would either ignore or choose to do things that were obviously not helpful... And in fact, sometimes people would try to suggest I could do something in the public sector that way, and I said I could not. There’s no way I could, because it would eat me alive... So that was one of the most painful and difficult parts of our work, because we could raise funds and we could do good things for those babies that we were working with... But if we had policies that would take away Medicaid or just disrupt basic kinds of health requirements, you would lose half of what you just did!

What were some of your key philosophies about how you did your work that were important to you?

Some of the things I’ve come to appreciate is the sense of appreciation of others and making sure that you’re trying your best to see where they are in things... When you have team members who are working together – they’re going to see things differently and have different experiences, and to honor and appreciate their experience, to me, is really, really important and valuable... One of the things with Nurses for Newborns: I was privileged to be there (18) years, which today is a long time in terms of organizations, and I could see, as we started to grow over time... you appreciate the differing moments that are there... it’s like with a child, with our own developmental process for humans, you know, there’s always those stages... you have to get through it, and it’s not easy, and sometimes there’s mistakes, just like in every parenting or any other organization process. But to just know that, hey, we’re going to stay at it and continue and carry that passion, but do it in a way that’s honoring all the players, including those who are saying, “we need to be able to keep paying our bills.” You know, that’s all part of it.

Do you have any practical tips for people who are working in the field right now?

For many years, I overdid it, totally as a clinician, as a social worker, as a grant writer – when I work through the night and get a grant out for the next morning, we get the grant, okay, that’s good, but in the long run, that’s not a healthy way to operate – so, I would say I think that self-care is so important, and allowing yourself the right to be healthy... the right to take care of yourself... doing those things that you find give you a little bit of energy, that give you the space to be you... Time management can really help that, because if you can parcel your time by saying no to certain things and saying, “this is the priority,” and do this in an organized fashion that works for you... that can really help with care of yourself. And then it also ends up that you’re doing a better job, too

How did you see the field change over time?

That has been one of the wonderful joys of my career – to see the growth of the profession and the fields of knowledge that can be useful to the moms, kids, babies, the families and the ultimate benefit of society. I guess one of the things that’s changed, it’s funny, but it’s so true... Some of the earlier assumptions about prevention that we had more from anecdotal and practice information were borne out with more research... The explosion of neuroscience... that really, radically changes things... The fact that the science is there and then that people start accepting the science and start using it... those are powerful things... I think the other thing that that struck me is how, and this has been an ebb and tide kind of thing, but when I started with Nurses for Newborns, issues related to the variant disparities of the children that we serve were not as clearly understood and over time, again, science helped to build this case. Now, this challenge for me has been that, as I’ve seen this grow, this knowledge base grow, I’ve also seen pushback from people who are devaluing historical and scientific evidence... So, I think that’s kind of a piece that’s continuing, and that’s a worrisome one.



HERO HIGHLIGHTS:

What do you hope for the future of child abuse and neglect prevention?

I'm hopeful about where we're going with science. I feel like there is a real connectivity with bodies of information that were not available before in terms of pure research, in terms of real biological research, social research, new data sets that are enormous, that you can interconnect fields of information in ways that we just couldn't even think about when I got into the field... We have the chance to start looking at all the range of systems that can interact in ways that could be protective of children, that can be promotive of the best in human experience. So, I'm encouraged by that... The other side of this, though, is that as we grow with this new wonderful technology

and science efforts, don't forget we're still human, social creatures, and attending to the heart and the basics of human relationship have to be part of that. If we ignore that, we really ignore a lot of our potential.

I've been blessed by great, wonderful, kind, gracious relationships. My family at Nurses for Newborns was so wonderful to me in my departure, but they were wonderful to me always... And I saw that many other places – certainly the Children's Trust Fund team... And people within our state offices... who are just dedicated, and they give their souls for the people of our state and for our children. And I think that's what makes things work. And when we listen to that soul that's there, who knows what the possibilities may be?

PUBLIC EDUCATION:

CTF Celebrates Launch of “Something We Agree On”

Public Education update: Our **Something We Agree On** Campaign is live now at somethingweagreeon.org!

This campaign is CTF's latest educational and awareness initiative that aims to **bring perceived and actual norms related to child well-being into alignment**, to increase protective attitudes and behaviors, and to promote a sense of shared responsibility for child well-being.

This effort began with a 2020 [baseline survey of Missouri adults](#) to measure perceived and actual norms related to child abuse and neglect prevention. **The Montana Institute** then helped us to select norms that reflected protective attitudes and behaviors with a margin for growth and a notable discrepancy between the actual and perceived norms measured. Our friends at **Bucket Media** then took one of these norms related to child sexual abuse prevention and ran with it to create the first iteration of **Something We Agree On**, a multimedia campaign that will initially run through June 2022 in four areas of the state with an identified need for increased child sexual abuse prevention.

Additionally, the four geographical areas targeted for campaign promotion **coincide with regions where CTF is also funding child sexual abuse prevention initiatives** that utilize multiple interventions and a public health approach. By focusing resources in geographical areas of need, across multiple levels of the social-ecological model for prevention, we hope to have a meaningful



impact on the communities served and to contribute to the developing field of evidence-based child sexual abuse prevention.

The final step in the campaign's iterative process will be a **resurvey of the norms measured in the original survey**, to assess progress made and create a new baseline for the next iteration. Keep an eye out for **Something We Agree On** posts on our social media channels, and check out the campaign website at somethingweagreeon.org!

CTF Announces New Public Education Resources: Safe Sleep, Abusive Head Trauma, and Child Sexual Abuse

Use the links below to access **three new vital resources** for immediate use in your community-based work!



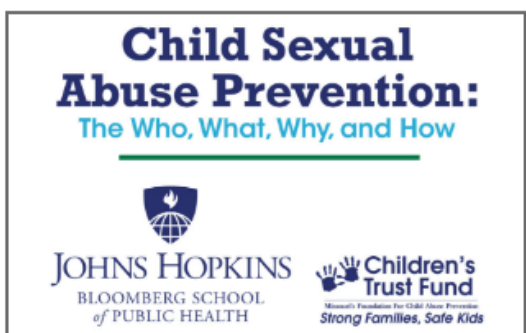
CTF Presents *Countdown to Calm: Preventing Abusive Head Trauma*, a joint effort of Children's Trust Fund, DHSS, Children's Mercy KC, and St. Louis Children's Hospital. Access and share this video on YOUTUBE: [Watch Now](#)

[Request a DVD](#)



Missouri First Lady Teresa Parsons highlights *Infant Safe Sleep Awareness Month* in this new PSA, a joint effort of Children's Trust Fund, DHSS, DSS, and DESE. Access or Download this video on VIMEO: [Short Version](#)

[Long Version](#)



In conjunction with the launch of *“Something We Agree On,”* CTF has partnered with Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health to publish a new *Whitepaper* focused on the four primary questions we must be able to answer in order to successfully prevent Child Sexual Abuse in our communities.

[Download the Whitepaper \(PDF\)](#)



RFP NOTICES:

RFP Notices for APRA (immediate) and CBCAP (upcoming) funds

APRA Funds Update:

Children’s Trust Fund will be releasing at least \$300,000 in **supplemental CBCAP funding, received through the American Rescue Plan**, to provide for the immediate needs of current or recent CTF grantees, and the families that they serve, that are continuing to experience **hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic**.

Up to \$25,000 will be awarded per grantee, and priority will be given to agencies that have received limited COVID-relief funding in the last 18 months. ARPA funds will be distributed as a one-time grant payment at the beginning of the contract period.

Access and Download the Request for Applications for ARPA/CBCAP Supplemental Immediate Needs Funding

CBCAP Funds Update:

Children’s Trust Fund will be releasing up to \$500,000 in **federal Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) funds** in state Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023) for **backbone agencies supporting collaborative home visiting initiatives in Missouri** that are using a Collective Impact approach to service provision.

These RFP for this funding opportunity **will be released in March**, and notifications will be made through our social media, website, and mailing list.

Watch for more details and funding opportunities in the coming months and in our next issue of *First-hand Insights*. Want to be notified when the next issue is released? Join CTF’s “First-to-know” list by clicking below and filling out our 2-minute sign-up form.

<https://ctf4kids.org/first-hand-insights/>

Office of Childhood Update: Early Childhood Stakeholder Engagement Report

CTF is a trusted leader and partner in the creation of Missouri’s new **Office of Childhood**. We are pleased to announce the public release of the *Early Childhood and Afterschool Stakeholder Engagement Report*, conducted in 2021 by a special Steering Committee in collaboration with the **Hunt Institute**. Click below to read the report and recommendations in their entirety.



Read or Download the Report

Visit the Office of Childhood transition website [here](#).

Related Article: Emily Interviews Governor Mike Parson on the new Office of Childhood



UPDATE FROM EMILY:

Over the past year, CTF has added some ***amazing people*** to our full-time staff. Today, I'd like to take the opportunity to tell you more about the **three newest faces on the CTF team**, Jeni Sommerfeld, Tara Goins, and Nicole Dunmire. As always, I'm here to answer any questions you have and get you connected with the right person at CTF to support you in your work. **I'm really looking forward to seeing what we can accomplish for Missouri's kids and families in 2022.** –EVS

Contact Emily or a CTF Staff Member



Jeni Sommerfeld
Promoted to Program Director

Jeni joined CTF in Spring of 2021 as Program Officer and was recently promoted to Program Director! She brings a wealth of experience in funding administration, grantee support, and statewide collaboration related to child welfare from her time at ***Missouri KidsFirst*** – the state coalition of child advocacy centers and Missouri chapter of ***Prevent Child Abuse America***.

The hypothesis-driven approach that she learned during her educational background in biology aligns well with CTF's commitment to evidence-based interventions to prevent child abuse and neglect, but Jeni is a social worker at heart that cares deeply about children and families.

You can reach Jeni at jennifer.sommerfeld@oa.mo.gov



Tara Goins
Hired as Program Coordinator

Tara started with ***Children's Division*** in 2008 as a child abuse and neglect (CA/N) investigator in the 13th circuit. From 2008-2014, she worked in a variety of capacities with intact families, licensing/resource families, and alternative/foster care. In 2014, Tara was promoted to supervisor over the (CA/N) investigation unit, family centered services and eventually supervised alternative care and licensing/resources within CD.

Tara has a Masters in Social Work with focused experience older youth in alternative care. She most recently served at the ***Children's Division Central Office*** where she took on statewide prevention efforts and initiatives, including home visiting, child/human trafficking, safe sleep, newborn crisis assessments, and crisis care. Tara is ecstatic to have the opportunity to take her knowledge of the child welfare system and implement practical strategies and initiatives to assist CTF with the prevention of child maltreatment at a state level.

You can reach Tara at tara.goins@oa.mo.gov



Nicole Dunmire
Hired as Administrative Assistant

Nicole is a SW Missouri native who moved to Jefferson City in 2013. She is 26, married for two years to her husband, Geoffrey, and together they have two dogs, Sylvia and Zenki. Nicole has previously worked in retail, daycare, and office settings before joining CTF. She was especially inspired by her daycare job, where she worked with all age groups, including infants through Pre-K, and assisted the Director with administrative duties. She loves to do any kind of work that involves children and animals, but her love for children is what led her to apply with CTF.

Nicole's goal is to provide helpful resources to children and their families so that they may have happy and healthy lives – to become whatever they choose to be in their future.

You can reach Nicole at nicole.dunmire@oa.mo.gov

Stay “In-the-Know”

Sign up for our newsletter



Explore Past Issues



Nominate a “Hero”



What is First-Hand Insights?

We launched **First-Hand Insights** in 2021 to give our stakeholders **reliable information and real-life inspiration**.

We believe those working hardest on behalf of children deserve to hear directly from trusted sources and thought leaders in their field. Think of it as “**news for CTF insiders**,” a periodic, first-hand look at the tangible steps we take to protect and strengthen Missouri's kids and families.



KEEP IN TOUCH

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